

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
6 May 2005 (06.05.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/040615 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **F04D 19/04,**  
17/16

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/GB2004/004046

(22) International Filing Date:  
23 September 2004 (23.09.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0322888.9 30 September 2003 (30.09.2003) GB  
0409139.3 23 April 2004 (23.04.2004) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **THE BOC GROUP PLC** [GB/GB]; Chertsey Road, Windlesham, Surrey GU20 6HJ (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **STONES, Ian, David** [GB/GB]; BOC Edwards, York Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9TT (GB). **SCHOFIELD, Nigel, Paul**

[GB/GB]; BOC Edwards, York Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9TT (GB). **STUART, Martin, Nicholas** [GB/GB]; BOC Edwards, York Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9TT (GB).

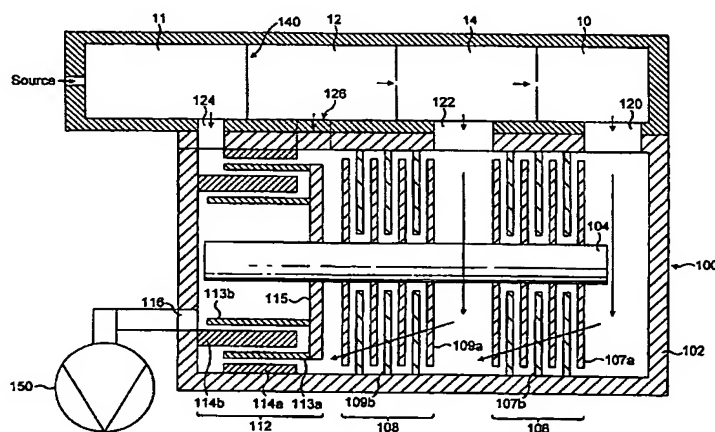
(74) Agent: **BOOTH, Andrew, Steven**; The BOC Group plc, Chertsey Road, Windlesham, Surrey GU20 6HJ (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: VACUUM PUMP



(57) Abstract: A differentially pumped mass spectrometer system comprises a mass spectrometer having a plurality of pressure chambers; a vacuum pump attached thereto and comprising at least three pump inlets, a first pumping section, a second pumping section downstream from the first pumping section, and a third pumping section downstream from the second pumping section, an outlet from a first, relatively low, pressure chamber being connected to a first pump inlet through which fluid can enter the pump from the first chamber and pass through the first, second and third pumping sections towards a pump outlet, an outlet for a second, medium pressure chamber of the spectrometer being connected to a second pump inlet through which fluid can enter the pump and pass through, of said sections, only the second and third pumping sections towards the pump outlet, and an outlet for a third, highest pressure chamber of the spectrometer being connected to a third pump inlet through which fluid can enter the pump and pass through, of said sections, only at least part of the third pumping section towards the pump outlet; and a backing pump connected to the pump outlet such that, in use, at least 99% of the fluid mass pumped from the spectrometer passes through both the vacuum pump and the backing pump.



SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**Published:**

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**

16 June 2005